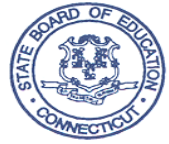




STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TO: 2012 Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Sponsors and
Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Family Day Care Home Sponsors

FROM: Cheryl Resha, Education Manager *Cheryl Resha*
Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education

DATE: May 18, 2012

SUBJECT: **Operational Memorandum #10-12-SFSP and #07H-12**
Eligibility Based on Census Data: 2012 Data Release

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide guidance regarding the use of census data for area eligibility determinations in the CACFP and the SFSP. This memorandum supersedes 2003 memoranda, which discussed the use of 2000 census data to determine area eligibility.

Area Eligibility Policy

CACFP day care homes and SFSP sites that establish eligibility using census data are required to use the most recent census data available (7 CFR 226.6(f); 7 CFR 225.6(c)). The Census Bureau will now estimate household income annually using the American Community Survey (ACS) and therefore, the Food and Nutrition Service will release these new estimates every year. However, in order to reduce burden and maintain consistency within the Programs, area eligibility determinations based on census data are now effective for five years (see OM#08-12-SFSP or OM #05H-12, Eligibility Based on Census Data, March 27, 2012).

Census Block Groups (CBGs) will continue to be the geographical unit used to assess eligibility for CACFP and SFSP when using census data. In order for a CACFP day care home or SFSP site to be eligible, 50 percent or more of the children in a CBG must be eligible for free or reduced price school meals.

In the past, CACFP and SFSP used different definitions of children in establishing whether an area is eligible using census data. However, since the CACFP no longer establishes area eligibility based on elementary school data, CACFP day care homes and SFSP sites will be considered area eligible if they are located in a CBG that qualifies under either CACFP or SFSP. Therefore, the 2012 Data Release includes a column of CBGs for CACFP and a separate column for SFSP. A column has been included (with the heading "Eligible") to indicate whether the CBG is eligible under either Program.

Day Care Homes

Effective immediately, the 2000 census data may no longer be used to determine tier I eligibility status of a CACFP day care home; only the 2006-10 ACS data may be used. Sponsors may reconsider the eligibility of all tier II day care homes based on the new census data. If a day care home is currently classified as tier II, but the CBG data demonstrates that the home is now tier I, then the sponsor may immediately change the status of that home to tier I and pay the higher rate of reimbursement for the current month and future months. Note, retroactive reimbursement at the higher tier I rates will not be provided for any previous month.

Sponsors must annually inform tier II day care home providers that the provider may ask for a reclassification to be considered when new census data becomes available each year and that reclassification may be made at any time for tier II homes. Additionally, sponsors must review all tier I day care homes currently eligible based on census data and make a new determination using the newly available census data, as well as other available methods. Sponsors may choose to reconsider day care home classification during the next scheduled on-site review. The review and reclassification of tier I day care homes must be completed by September 30, 2012.

Using the New Data

Listed below are instructions for using the 2006-10 ACS CBG information to determine SFSP site eligibility or CACFP day care home eligibility.

The Food Research and Action Center have created mapping Web sites to determine census area eligibility. The link to the Web sites are:

CACFP Day Care Home Sponsors –

http://216.55.182.132/FairData/CACFP/map.asp?command=find&vis=&map_option=loc_and_site&street=

SFSP Sponsors – <http://216.55.182.132/FairData/SummerFood/map.asp?command=scope&map=0>

Please note that next year, the 2007-11 ACS data will be released by the Census Bureau. As new data are released, sponsors will be notified of updates by the state agency.

Questions pertaining to this memorandum may be directed to the following staff:

SFSP Sponsors: Susan Bohuslaw at 860-807-2073 or susan.bohuslaw@ct.gov.

Day Care Home Sponsors: Celia Cordero at 860-807-2076 or celia.cordero@ct.gov.

CR:sbb

Important: This is a numbered Operational Memorandum that contains important program information. Please read carefully and retain in a binder for your future reference. Operational Memoranda are also posted on the Child Nutrition Web site at the following links: <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2626&q=333792> and <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2626&q=333794>.